



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SUGGESTIONS TO LEADERS OF CLASSES IN THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

BY GEORGIA L. CHAMBERLIN

The Book of Job has a more extended, direct, and powerful discussion of the problem of the suffering of the righteous than any of the books that we are to study. To a majority of Christian people, however, this is a sealed book. Comparatively few people have had an opportunity to study it under such guidance as to lead them to discover the profound purpose of the author, and to enable them to follow the progress of thought in the book and to appreciate the sublimity of its conclusion.

The matter of programs for class work should be exceedingly flexible. One of the greatest pieces of work that could be done would be to interest the group in a dramatic presentation of the book, using the very simplest stage equipment and letting all the emphasis come upon the wonderful speeches. The writer has seen this done in a church in Chicago by the older children and the young people in the Sunday school. The speeches were rendered with the greatest appreciation, the setting was effective, and all who participated in the play or who saw its presentation will have a permanent appreciation of the purpose and message of the book which could hardly be secured by non-professional Bible students in any other way.¹

If so elaborate a plan seems impossible, much can be done by simply reading some of the greatest speeches in dialogue at the meetings of the club. Of course, the reading should be assigned to people who can do it well, otherwise it is tedious. The purpose of all this is, of course, to make the characters in the drama seem real persons.

For those who prefer the ordinary type of program the following topics are suggested:

PROGRAM I

1. The epilogue and the prologue of the Book of Job; their scenes and their philosophy of God.
2. Job's lament, a reading.
3. First attempts of the friends to bring comfort, and the result upon Job.
4. The arguments of the second group of speeches.

Discussion: What element in the situation caused most suffering to Job?

PROGRAM II

1. Job's skeptical theory of God and the world, based upon his observation of life.
2. The part of Elihu in the development of this drama.
3. The closing Jehovah speeches considered as to purpose and effect.

¹ All Souls Church, Chicago, Illinois.

4. The greatest passage in the poem (opinions from all members of the group).

Discussion: Does the Book of Job give an answer to the question, "Why do the righteous suffer?" If not, did the writer of the book achieve his purpose?

REFERENCE READING

In addition to the Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible* the following books are of great value in the study of the Book of Job: Strahan, *The Book of Job*; Davidson, *The Book of Job* (Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges); Cheyne, *Jewish Religious Life after the Exile*; Genung, *The Epic of the Inner Life*; Moulton, *The Literary Study of the Bible*; Peake, *Job* (The Century Bible); Driver, *The Book of Job*.